

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone) **CONFIDENTIAL**
 SUBJECT SED Criticism of FDGB Leadership

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1. On 10 October Emil Paffrath, an SED functionary of the Central Secretariat in charge of trade union affairs, in a lecture before an assembly of Betriebspartei-schulleiter (shop group school principals) in Berlin-Kaulsdorf, made the following points concerning the activities of the trade union (FDGB) leadership.
 - A. SED functionaries representing the party in the trade unions had backslid into the policy of "only trade-unionism" (Nur-Gewerkschaftlertums). As a result the danger of opportunism had become apparent and fighting spirit was conspicuously lacking. This deplorable attitude was being prominently displayed in FDGB publications (press, information, and propaganda material).
 - B. Not only shop group school principals should be on guard against the use of FDGB propaganda material in their shops but special effort should be made to impede or prevent the circulation of such material. Principals should consider it their primary duty to assure the predominant influence of SED shop groups upon shop councils or the trade union leadership (Betriebsgewerkschaftsleitung), and make it their business to see to it that no measures affecting the internal management of the shop be taken without the express concurrence of the SED shop group.
 - C. The Parteileitung would be called upon to exercise more stringent supervision over the total work of the FDGB. No longer would the FDGB leadership be able to take independent measures without prior concurrence of the Parteileitung.
 - D. An attitude of too much trust toward leading and proven trade unionists was to be deprecated. In this context Paffrath cited Hermann Schlimme and Warnke, the latter by no means representing the type of SED functionary the party needed in the FDGB.

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Comment: This is further confirmation of the well-established fact that relations between the SFD and the FDGB are not all they should be. The indictment of "only trade-unionism" is an old stand-by in the listing of party heresies. The Landesverband Gross-Berlin of the SFD is known to have launched painstaking investigations in order to determine the salient weakness of the shop group system as reflected in the uncoordinated activities of trade union representatives in certain industrial shops. It appears to be a foregone conclusion that the FDGB will sooner or later be forced into complete compliance with the SFD party line and that all deviations, reminiscent of Western trade unionism, will be eradicated. Eventually the FDGB, like other mass organizations, will emerge as an obedient instrument of the SFD leadership, projecting the will of the SFD primarily upon the industrial sector of the Soviet Zone in Germany.

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